

THE SCIENTIFIC APPROACH TO THE OLD TESTAMENT
(Continued.)

Sometimes if a person states that he believes the Biblical story of creation he is asked the question, "Which day of creation do you accept, the first or the second?"

It is very common to say that the Bible begins with two distinct and contradictory stories of creation. This idea is, in fact, one of the foundation stones of the higher criticism of the Pentateuch. Upon examining Genesis 1:1 to 2:4 and comparing this with Genesis 2:4 to 2:25 one can find marked differences in these two accounts and then by carrying these differences on through the Pentateuch one can recognize two distinct styles and thus can separate the "P" document and the "J" document, which are alleged to have been written many hundreds of years apart.

It thus becomes quite important to us not only because of its relation to science and the Scripture but also because of its relation to the higher criticism to ~~examine~~ look closely at this question, "Does the Bible allege with two different accounts of creation?" This statement is so widespread that it is very common for Christians to try to explain why it should be permissible to have two accounts of creation in the beginning of the Bible. It is a very easy way for us to be misled to be presented with a situation and asked to explain it. A true scientific approach to the Bible or to any other subject requires that we do not take anything for granted but that we examine the facts to see the true situation. Before assuming that there are two sides of creation in the beginning of the Bible we should look at them and see whether this is actually the case.

On close examination we find that the story from Genesis 1:1 to 2:4 is a complete account of creation. It mentions most of the outstanding elements in the physical universe and tells the order in which they came into being. On the other hand, the account which we find in chapters 2:4 to 2:25 does not say anything about an original creation of